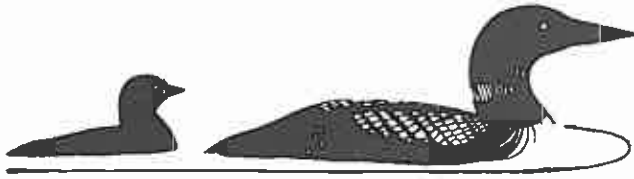


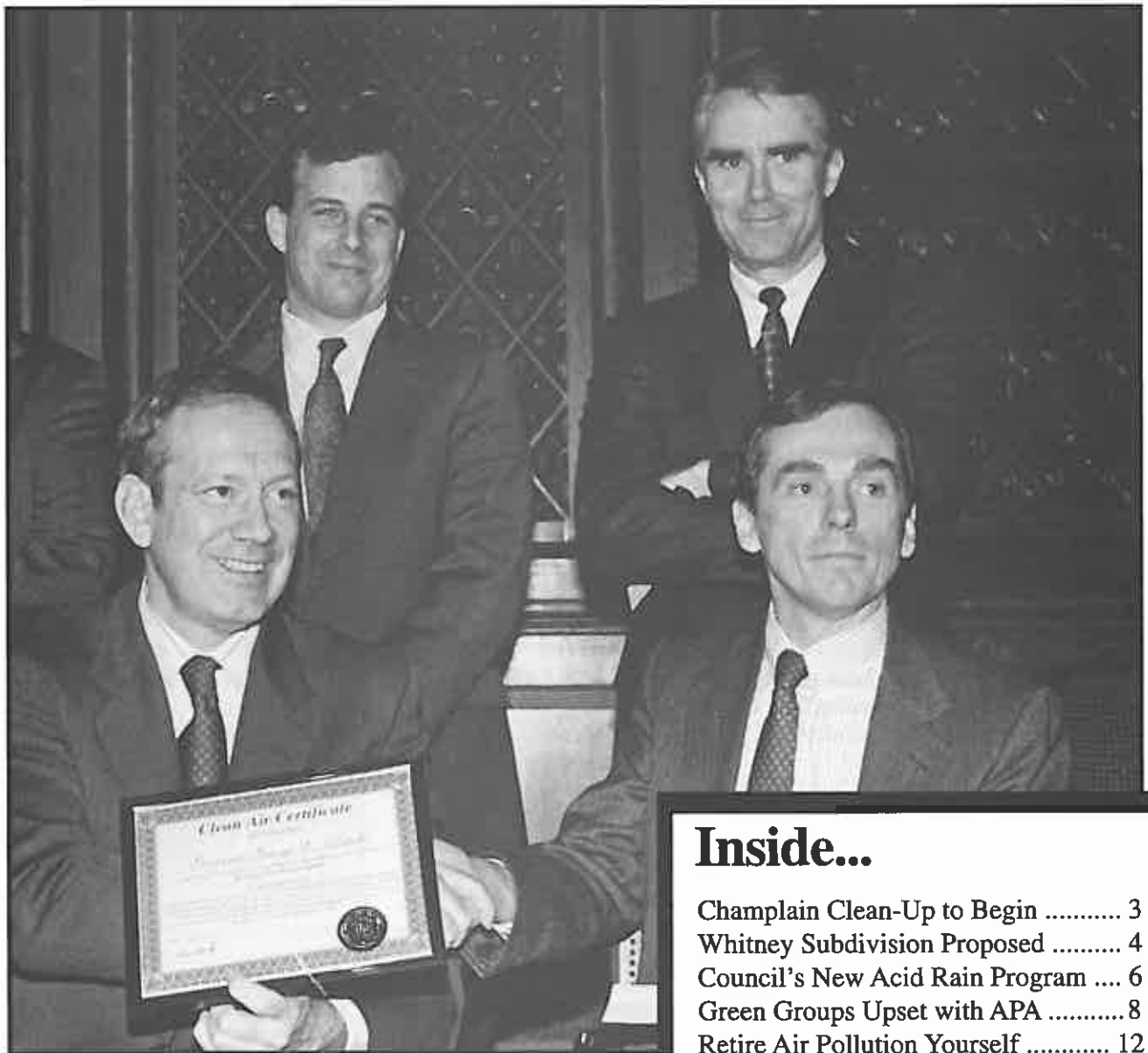
# Adirondack Council



Newsletter/Spring 1997

*Member Organizations: Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, National Audubon Society, National Parks & Conservation Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, The Wilderness Society*

## Governor Retires First Ton of Pollution In New Adirondack Council Program To Prevent Acid Rain



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May 1997

Dear Members and Friends,

The Adirondack Council's ability to protect Park resources, and to head-off threats to the Park, often depends on our ability to react quickly as events unfold in the Park. While we work on issues that linger for months and even years, it is fast-breaking events that put the Council's staff to the test.

When the Whitney family announced its plan for a 15,000-acre, mega-subdivision around Little Tupper Lake, the Council and our member organizations reacted within the hour with a press release calling upon the APA to require a master plan on the entire property. Simultaneously, we called upon Gov. George E. Pataki to move swiftly to negotiate the purchase of these 15,000 acres from a "newly willing" seller. Within a few days the Council had written a letter to the Adirondack Park Agency requesting that they revoke a prior permit issued to the Whitneys last summer. We then sent an action alert to our entire membership. Many of you responded immediately by sending letters to the Governor, urging him to acquire the property for the Forest Preserve.

This spring, the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation notified us that they wished to donate thousands of pollution allowances to the Adirondack Council. We recognized that this was a great opportunity to publicize the need for further action to curb the effects of acid rain in the Adirondacks. We also saw an opportunity to boost the Council's resources in carrying on the fight against acid rain and threats to the Park. In both cases, the response has been gratifying. The media has been eager to publicize the acid rain issue and state and local officials have lined up to retire the first pollution allowances.

A few days before each monthly Adirondack Park Agency meeting, the Council along with many others receive the agenda and information packet for the meeting. In many cases, the projects and issues to be addressed at the Agency meeting are familiar to us. But there are sometimes little surprises that we must address quickly. Members and friends like you play a vital role in keeping us informed of potentially important issues which crop up around the six-million-acre Adirondack Park.

Often, state agencies kick an issue around for weeks or months before proposing policy changes. The Adirondack Council's reputation for having a well-informed, active and vocal membership ensures that it is virtually impossible for a state agency to quietly change a policy to the detriment of the Park. In short, your efforts help keep government accountable.

The board and staff of the Adirondack Council bring enthusiasm and dedication to the task of protecting Park resources. And we deeply appreciate the interest and support of our members and all who care about the Park.

Sincerely,  
*Tim Burke*  
Timothy J. Burke  
Executive Director

### On the Cover

Governor Pataki, left front, hands a personal check for \$50 to Adirondack Council Executive Director Tim Burke, right, to retire one ton of sulfur-dioxide pollution in the Governor's name during a press conference at the State Capitol on April 1.

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## Our Mission

The Adirondack Council is an 18,000-member, privately funded, not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the natural and human communities of the Adirondack Park through research, education, advocacy and legal action.

*The East Branch of the Ausable River, at right, is one of seven Adirondack trout rivers where the Governor has proposed the acquisition of public access rights across private land for fishing. The exact location is still subject to negotiations. This view is in Upper Jay.*



Gary Randorf

## Lake Champlain Clean-Up, Fishing Access to Benefit from Bond Act

The first wave of proposed funding from the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act of 1996 includes more than \$3.3 million for environmental clean-up and fisheries projects on Lake Champlain, as well as an additional \$1 million for public fishing access statewide.

The \$1.75-billion bond act contains roughly \$15 million to be directed toward Lake Champlain projects over the next several years. The Pataki Administration has noted that it will follow the Lake Champlain management plan devised through the combined efforts of New York and Vermont officials. Under the spending plan proposed for 1997 by Gov. George E. Pataki, the bond act would provide:

- \* \$101,030 to the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to prevent nutrient loading in Cumberland Bay via erosion and agricultural runoff. Reducing phosphorus and other nutrient loadings in Lake Champlain was the

top priority chosen for action by the Lake Champlain Management Conference in its recently released plan.

- \* \$1.5 million to the City of Plattsburgh for a fish ladder at Imperial Dam, to allow fish to move more freely in and out of the lake via the Saranac River.

- \* \$1.7 million to the Village of Granville, Washington County, for sewer repairs to prevent improperly treated sewage from reaching the lake.

- \* \$5,840 to the Essex County SWCD to control nutrient loading via the Bouquet River.

On April 1, Governor Pataki unveiled his plan to spend \$1 million this year to acquire public-access conservation easements for fishing rights on dozens of rivers. The fishing easements represent the state's first use of the bond act to accomplish the goals of the Small Projects category in the NYS Open Space Conservation Plan. The category was proposed by the Adirondack Council to help secure small, but important pieces of land that

could provide access to Forest Preserve and water bodies that were otherwise inaccessible. Too often, the state's lengthy acquisition process allowed private buyers to snatch-up such parcels before the Legislature could authorize the purchase. Now, the state can purchase parcels of fewer than 200 acres, costing less than \$250,000, without seeking the Legislature's approval. World-renowned Adirondack trout rivers included in the access-site acquisition list include:

- \* Bouquet River, Essex County;
- \* Saranac River, Clinton County;
- \* North Branch of the Saranac River, Clinton and Franklin counties;
- \* Ausable River, Essex and Clinton counties;
- \* East Branch of the Ausable River, Essex County;
- \* West Branch of the Ausable River, Essex County; and,
- \* West Canada Creek, Herkimer County.

# Whitney Industries Proposes Another 40 Lots, Hotel on Little Tupper Lake

*Adirondack Council Opposes Subdivision Plan, Calls for State Purchase of Subdivision Area*

As you may have read in the January 10 edition of *The New York Times*, Whitney Industries has proposed a substantial residential and commercial subdivision for 15,000 acres of its 51,000-acre parcel of family estates and timberland in the Town of Long Lake.

The proposal came on the heels of another subdivision in the same area of the Whitney property. The Council opposes the current subdivision plan and will work to prevent its approval. The Council has also urged the state to purchase the entire area slated for subdivision and any additional Whitney lands offered for sale. They are at the heart of the proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilderness, adjacent to Lake Lila.

## 1996 Subdivision Approved

At the request of Whitney Industries, the Adirondack Park Agency approved the first-ever subdivision around Little Tupper Lake in August of 1996. Little Tupper is the largest lake in New York State in a single, private ownership, and is the centerpiece of the Whitney holdings. The lake contains a population of heritage strain brook trout, which the Whitney family has carefully managed for decades. Last fall's subdivision application indicated that additional fishing pressure on Little Tupper Lake could seriously harm this heritage strain fishery. APA proposed no protection measures to preserve this globally unique fishery.

The new (January 1997) permit application also contained a statement

from Whitney Industries that the property had suffered heavy damage in the 1995 blowdown. The company also acknowledged that it had so heavily harvested its trees that there was little marketable timber left on the property. This is the reason the timber company wants to build

proposed wilderness — a serious setback to the state's and the Adirondack Council's plans to establish the largest wilderness east of the Mississippi River in that area.

When the three-lot subdivision proposal surfaced last summer, the Adirondack Council immediately asked the Park Agency to conduct a public hearing and to require a master plan on the entire 50,000-acre property.

But APA Chairman Greg Campbell forcefully opposed requiring a master plan from Whitney Industries. "Why box ourselves in by requiring a master plan?" said Campbell at the August APA

meeting. "(The subdivision) means almost nothing. This is nothing but the redrawing of a few lot lines."

The Adirondack Council explained that the only way to determine the cumulative impact of past, present and future development activity is to require a master plan for the entire property. The APA had already required such master plans from Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. and the Adirondack Mountain Club.

## Master Plan Balk

The Agency approved the three-lot subdivision without even holding a public hearing. No master plan was required.

Five months later, Whitney Industries unveiled a proposal for a 40-lot, 15,000-acre subdivision in the exact same Little Tupper Lake area. "We didn't know the Whitneys would be coming back and applying for a development of this magnitude," APA

## Thank You Activists!

*The Adirondack Council extends its congratulations to its members who wrote to Governor Pataki demanding a master plan for the Whitney Estate. Your letters helped to ensure that the APA will consider the overall impact of all future development and subdivision plans before approving any portion of the current proposal. The Adirondack Council will continue to work toward public ownership of the lands being considered for development.*

dozens of new residences, and a hotel, on Little Tupper Lake and surrounding waters.

## Land Heavily Logged

According to the application, parts of the property will not be able to produce a supply of mature trees again until well into the next century: "Portions of the property are currently undergoing a necessary timber regeneration phase projected to last 30 to 50 years ... Therefore, the (subdivision) project described herein is a reasonable, acceptable undertaking to sustain (Whitney Industries') operations."

The Whitneys are one of only a dozen owners of the 178,000 acres of private land in the proposed 400,000-acre Bob Marshall Great Wilderness. The proposed subdivision and sale of lots in the northern third of the Whitney property would triple the number of private landowners in the



Gary Raudorf

*View of the interior of the Whitney property from the confluence of Little Tupper Lake and Round Lake. The vast series of interconnected waterways on the northern Whitney lands is just one of the reasons the property would make an excellent addition to the "Forever Wild" Forest Preserve.*

Chairman Campbell said in January, again missing the point.

The Adirondack Council and our member organizations immediately called upon Gov. George E. Pataki to begin negotiations with the Whitney family for purchase of the entire 15,000 acres, plus any other portions of the Whitney Estate which may be available for acquisition.

**Council: Revoke Old Permit**

At the same time, the Council asked the Park Agency to revoke the previous three-lot subdivision permit and consider the cumulative impacts of both subdivision plans on the natural character of the sprawling estate and the surrounding public Forest Preserve.

Again, Campbell balked for reasons that seemed to have nothing to do with state law or the Agency's mission to protect the Park's natural resources.

"Rescinding the (August) permit just won't happen," Campbell told

reporters. "Rescinding the permit now would be inappropriate, since the APA commissioners made a decision based on the best information available at the time ... We must consider each project on the basis of its own merits ... There wasn't a need, at the time, for a master plan. It was issued under good faith, based on the information we had at the time."

Although the APA asked Whitney Industries to respond to the Adirondack Council's request that the three-lot (August 1996) permit be revoked, the Agency has not yet made a decision.

**Staff Calls for Master Plan**

The APA staff did, however, require a master plan from Whitney Industries in its request for additional information on the 40-lot (January 1997) permit application.

Meanwhile, the New York City Council joined the Adirondack Council in calling on Governor Pataki to purchase the 15,000 acres slated

for subdivision. The Governor has directed his Chief Counsel, Michael Finnegan, to negotiate a price for the entire 15,000-acre proposed subdivision area, plus any other land Whitney Industries may wish to sell. Finnegan has met several times with company officials and appraisers have been hired to establish the property's market value.

**State Purchase Would Help Town**

That will not be easy, given the multitude of lakes and streams on the property. But it is clear that the Town of Long Lake's property tax revenues would be likely to increase if the state purchased the entire 15,000 acres, or more, for the Forest Preserve.

The vast majority of the Whitney property is enrolled in the 480 Timber Tax Abatement Program (named for Section 480 of the Real Property Tax Law, created in 1926). Under this program, the Whitneys realize an

**See WHITNEY, Page 11**

# Adirondack Council Seeking Help To

## Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. Donation of

On April 1, Governor George E. Pataki handed a \$50 personal check to Adirondack Council Executive Director Timothy J. Burke to kick off the Adirondack Council's new campaign to eliminate at least 5,000 tons of acid rain-causing pollution from the nation's air.

The event was made possible when the Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. donated 5,000 sulfur-dioxide pollution "allowances" to the Council in March. Each allowance represents the right to emit one-ton of sulfur-dioxide smokestack pollution.

Utility companies receive one allowance from the federal government each year for every ton of sulfur-dioxide they are allowed to emit. Those who clean up their emissions faster than required can sell or trade their leftover allowances to other companies, brokers or anyone. In this case, Niagara Mohawk donated them to the Adirondack Council's Pure Waters Campaign.

Each allowance has a market value of \$98. As a means of involving the public in the fight against acid rain, the Adirondack Council has agreed to retire one allowance for every \$50 donation it receives. Those interested in preventing one ton (2,000 pounds) of acid rain chemicals from ever falling on the Adirondack Park can send a \$50 donation to the Adirondack Council.

In exchange, the Council will retire one allowance in the name of the contributor and send the contributor a Clean Air Certificate, suitable for framing. (Those who wish to purchase a certificate for a friend or family member can specify that the recipient's name appear on the certificate.)

"This partnership between Niagara Mohawk and the Adirondack Council is a shining symbol of New Yorkers' unyielding determination



*Above, Sen. Ronald B. Stafford, R-Plattsburgh, purchaser of sulfur-dioxide smokestack pollution forever. Below left, Chairman Richard Brodsky, D-Scarsdale, and below right, other leaders who have purchased Clean Air Certificates include McHugh, R-Watertown; Senate Majority Leader Joseph Br... Senate En Con Chairman Carl Marcellino, R-Oyster Bay; ... Assemb. Steven Englebright, D-Setauket; Assemb. Elizabeth... of Supervisors George Canon, R-Newcomb; and, Essex Co.*



**To find out how you  
acid-rain-causing s  
forever, see the Bac  
the Adirondack C  
Certi**

# Retire 5,000 Tons of Sulfur-Dioxide

## at Allowances is Impetus for New Campaign



*As an Adirondack Council Clean Air Certificate, retiring one ton of sulfur-dioxide, Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee Attorney General Dennis Vacco, do the same. Other political figures who have retired a ton of sulfur-dioxide include: U.S. Rep. Sherwood Boehlert, R-Utica; U.S. Rep. John M. McManus, R-Troy; Assemb. Alexander Grannis, D-Manhattan; Assemb. Ray Meier, R-Utica; Assemb. Paul Tonko, D-Amsterdam; Assemb. James G. Thompson, R-Glens Falls; Chairman of the Essex County Board of Supervisors Clifford Donaldson.*

**You can retire one ton of sulfur-dioxide from a smokestack pollution source. Visit our Web Page for details on how to purchase the Council's Clean Air Certificates.**

to protect the Adirondack Park and all of our state's natural resources from the ravages of acid rain," Governor Pataki said before handing the check to Tim Burke. "I am honored that the Adirondack Council asked me to retire the first ton of pollution and am confident other New Yorkers will join in this worthwhile effort."

Burke thanked the Governor for "throwing out the first pitch" in the effort to take the 5,000 pollution allowances off the market forever. He also thanked Niagara Mohawk for its generous gift.

Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. Chairman William E. Davis purchased Clean Air Certificates from the Council on behalf of his own family and the Niagara Mohawk Foundation. Dept. of Environmental Conservation Acting Commissioner John P. Cahill also purchased a Clean Air Certificate at the event.

While millions of tons of sulfur-dioxide pollution are emitted into the nation's air each year, most of it falls in areas where the soil has enough alkaline material to neutralize the acidity before it causes much damage to aquatic and land-based life. The Adirondack Park landscape is dominated by thin, poor soils, steep slopes and fast-moving water, making its ecosystems extremely vulnerable to acidic rain and snow.

More importantly, the Park is located downwind of the Midwest, where many of the dirtiest coal-fired utility plants in the nation are located. Sulfur-dioxide and nitrogen-oxide pollution from the coal-burning plants is carried into the Northeast on prevailing winds and most of it is deposited on the first high ground it reaches, the Adirondack Mountains. It falls on the Adirondacks in the form of acidic dust, smoke, rain, snow, sleet, hail and fog.

Roughly 26,200 tons of sulfur-dioxide pollution falls on the Adirondack Park each year. The Adirondack Council is seeking reductions in Midwest smokestack emissions through federal legislation.



# Environmental Groups Unhappy with APA Chairman ...

Seven of the state's most prominent conservation organizations have written to Gov. George E. Pataki to express their deep concern with the current leadership at the Adirondack Park Agency (APA). The letter, hand-delivered to the Governor in February was released to the press in April. No response had been received.

The letter stated in part, "We are troubled by the continued appearance that Chairman Gregory Campbell is either incapable of carrying out the Pataki Administration's policy objectives in the Adirondack Park, or he is deliberately carrying out a personal agenda at the APA that conflicts with your Administration's goals ... It is our belief ... that the current leadership is embarking on a campaign to weaken or eliminate important environmental protections ..."

The letter identified seven representative issues where the APA "has failed to uphold its own statute, as well as current policy and precedent." **The issues where the APA has failed to protect the Park included:**

- \* Its failure in 1996 to require a master plan when Whitney Industries proposed its second subdivision within four years;
- \* The collapse of sound planning with legal review at the Agency;
- \* A sharp rise in after-the-fact-permits without fines, contrary to Agency enforcement guidelines;
- \* Secret meetings on matters of public policy; and,
- \* Weakening of wastewater pollution protections.

The list did not include three issues where the Governor personally had to intervene to reverse the direction of the Chairman: the proposed general permit to allow clearcutting on private lands after the 1995 blowdown; the Agency's failure to prevent Essex County's importation of garbage into the Park for the first time; and, the proposed Agency budget, which would have eliminated 20 percent of the staff.

The letter was co-signed by representatives of the Adirondack Council, Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks, Sierra Club-Atlantic Chapter, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Environmental Advocates, National Audubon Society and Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks.

## APA Clearcutting Policy Condemned

On the eve of the April monthly meeting of the Adirondack Park Agency, general counsel James Marrin drafted a memo to Commissioners suggesting that the Agency drop a proposed "interim staff advisory" that would have eliminated the requirement for a permit from the APA for clearcutting using a two-stage technique called "shelterwood cutting."

Shelterwood cutting is clearcutting in two phases. A first cut, which removes most of the mature trees, leaves



only a few mature trees for reseedling. Another cut, removing the remaining mature trees, is conducted years later. Currently, the APA requires a permit if the second cut takes place within 10 years. The proposed regulation change would have eliminated the need for the second-cut permit, regardless of how soon the second cut was completed.

## Assembly En Con Chairman Blasts Proposal

The proposal received considerable negative reaction, including a press conference that same day by Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee Chairman Richard Brodsky, D-Scarsdale, and other members of the Assembly. He condemned in strong terms the very idea that the Adirondack Park Agency would propose to eliminate the need for a permit for any type of clearcutting in the Adirondack Park.

The Assemblyman was also joined by representatives of the Sierra Club-Atlantic Chapter and Citizens Campaign for the Environment, who blamed the permit foul-up on the failed leadership of Chairman Campbell. Both organizations called upon Governor Pataki to replace him.

While the interim measure has been abandoned, Agency commissioners have already directed staff to prepare permanent revisions to a number of regulations currently on the books. The permanent changes would be part of the APA's first revision of its rules and regulations for developers since 1982. The revision is expected to take a year or more.

One of the proposed permanent changes would modify or remove permit requirements for clearcutting, including strip clearcutting, shelterwood cutting and requirements on the siting of woods roads.

The Adirondack Council opposes any weakening of the



# ... Call on Governor Once Again to Intervene & Protect Park



The Rex Babin political cartoon above ran in the Albany Times-Union the day after the two-phase clear-cutting plan was made public.

permit requirements for clearcutting in the Adirondack Park.

### Lake George Zoning Change Rejected

On April 10, the APA's Board of Commissioners rejected proposed amendments to the Adirondack Park Private Land-Use and Development Plan Map within the Town of Lake George.

The proposed zoning changes would have substantially increased the density of development within the Town at several undeveloped locations by declaring them to be "hamlet" areas. Such a reclassification would allow the highest density of development and the least amount of APA review of development plans. The changes were endorsed by town officials.

At the March meeting, APA staff recommended that the commissioners deny the town's request. Staff members said the parcels which were proposed for designation as hamlet areas, were for the most part ill-suited for intensive development, because they lacked sewer and water service, or had steep slopes or were in close proximity to prime

sensitive trout waters that require special protection.

The Commissioners tabled the matter in March and directed staff to continue working with the town. Unfortunately, town representatives were unhappy with the alternatives proposed by the staff. At the April meeting, the town officials took an all or nothing approach. They got nothing. Ironically, APA Chairman Campbell and Commissioner Barbara Sweet voted to approve the town plan and were animated in their frustration with other members of the Agency who voted against the changes.

On the merits, however, the town application was fatally flawed. In fact, the current application included areas proposed for expanded development that had been rejected by the APA almost ten years earlier. The reason in both cases? An unnecessary and undue impact on the natural resources of the Adirondack Park.

The Adirondack Council applauds the decision of those Commissioners who, despite considerable political pressure, evaluated this proposal on the merits and did the right thing.

# Northern Forest Legislation Proposed

Representatives from the U.S. House and Senate have introduced two pieces of legislation that will implement the recommendations of the Northern Forest Lands Council on how to better protect the natural resources and rural communities in the Northern Forest Region.

The bills are entitled the Northern Forest Stewardship Act and the Family Forest Land Preservation Tax Act.

The Northern Forest Stewardship Act (H.R.971/S.546) would foster careful management of private lands, build knowledge and information about forest resources and promote a sustainable, natural-resource-driven economy. It also encourages the federal government to make funds available for open space conservation in the Northern Forest states of Maine, Vermont, New York and New Hampshire.

The Northern Forest Region includes the Adirondack Park and Tug Hill regions of New York, as well as northern Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. The region covers more than 26 million acres, or more than 40,000 square miles.

The Northern Forest Lands Council was a panel appointed by the Governors of the four states and by Congress to study environmental and economic issues facing all four participating states. New York's panel included representatives from the timber industry, local government and recreation/conservation interests.

The Stewardship Act has bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House, including both Sens. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-NY, and Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y. If approved by Congress, the Stewardship Act would:

- \* Establish a voluntary partnership between federal and state governments to protect important forest resources;

- \* Direct economic assistance to Northern Forest communities to help

diversify and strengthen local economies;

- \* Create a regional research institute to coordinate research on ecosystem health, forest management and product development;



*U.S. Sen. D. Patrick Moynihan*

- \* Promote cooperation between the four states by coordinating federal, state and local actions affecting the Northern Forest;

- \* Establish principals of

sustainability for soil and water quality, conservation, timber resource management, protection of fragile areas and conservation of scenic qualities and recreational opportunities.

The Stewardship Act was originally introduced in August of 1995 and was passed by unanimous consent by the Senate, but was not voted on in the House.

The Family Forest Land Preservation Tax Act (S.552) addresses the Northern Forest Lands Council recommendation for changes to the tax code to encourage private land owners to either maintain their land in timber production or to preserve it as unharvested forest.

The Adirondack Council is a founding member of the Northern Forest Alliance, a 30-organization coalition of environmental groups concerned about the future of the Northern Forest Region. The Adirondack Council will continue to work with those groups and Congress to ensure the Stewardship Act and Preservation Tax Act pass this year.

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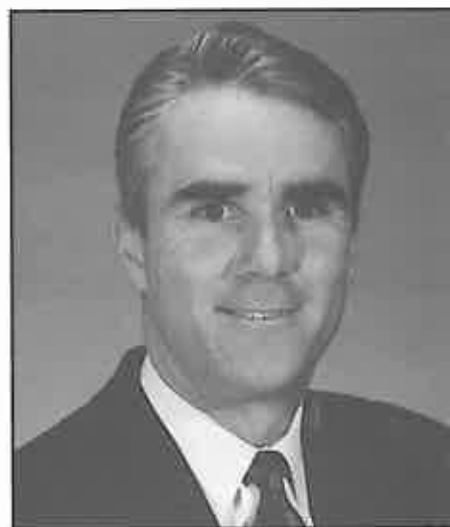
## Cahill Named Acting DEC Chief

Attorney John P. Cahill has been named Acting Commissioner of the Dept. of Environmental Conservation by Gov. George E. Pataki. Cahill succeeds Michael D. Zagata, who resigned at the end of 1996.

Cahill has been DEC's General Counsel since December 1995. Governor Pataki credited him with having been an integral part of his administration's team that crafted the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act of 1996.

In his previous position, Cahill managed the division of Legal Affairs and Environmental Enforcement as well as the DEC's regional attorneys. Prior to joining the

Pataki Administration, Cahill was a partner in the law firm of Plunkett & Jaffe of New York City. He holds a law degree and master's in environmental law from Pace University and a bachelor's degree in economics from Fordham.



# USGS Tries to Shut Acid Rain Monitors

On March 18, the Adirondack Council criticized a decision by the United States Geological Survey to cut critical acid rain research funding that is likely to result in the closing of five of New York's eight monitoring stations. The Council urged Congress to restore the program.

U.S. Senators Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Alfonse D'Amato were

unhappy with the decision to cut the funding as well. They sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt requesting that full funding be restored to the program.

They were joined by Governor George E. Pataki and by Congressmen John McHugh, R-Watertown, and Sherwood Boehlert, R-Utica, all of whom wrote letters to federal

officials demanding that the stations remain open. The Adirondack Park Agency passed a resolution calling for the restoration of funding.

As a result of the furor, USGS officials said they would fold the acid rain monitoring program into another water-quality program and keep the stations open through the end of 1998. But USGS would not promise that the program would survive beyond that.

The Adirondack Council is seeking a full restoration of the \$1.7-million program, with a line-item listed in the federal budget so Congress can see at a glance whether the program's funding has been cut during future budget deliberations.

According to program officials, the proposed budget cuts would result in station closures at Whiteface Mountain in the Adirondacks; West Point in the Hudson Valley; Biscuit Brook in the Catskills; Jasper in the southern Finger Lakes region; and Chautauqua in western New York. Vermont's only two stations — one in Bennington and one in Underhill — would also close under the proposed funding cuts.

## SAVE THESE DATES!

The Adirondack Council enthusiastically invites all members to join us at our Annual Awards Dinner being held at a beautiful private residence on Upper St. Regis Lake, near the community of Lake Clear, on **Friday evening, July 18, 1997.**

On **Saturday, July 19, 1997** the Council's annual Membership Meeting will take place at the same location.

We encourage you to attend one or both of these events to help us celebrate our past year's accomplishments and honor those who have made significant contributions to the preservation of the Adirondacks. All of our success depends on the partnership we have with members like you.

Visiting this area will be a chance for you to experience the recreational opportunities that abound in the St. Regis Canoe Area. Situated in the northwestern High Peaks region of the Adirondacks, this area allows unsurpassed canoe travel on more than 150 wilderness lakes and ponds ranging in size from a stone's throw to eight-mile-long Upper Saranac Lake. Invitations will be sent to all members in June. For further event information, please call Elaine at (518) 873-2240.

## Whitney Subdivision, Continued from Page 4

abatement of approximately \$250,000 per year in their property taxes. While many have concluded that the building of 40 large homes in the area would result in a large increase in tax revenues to the Town of Long Lake, the subdivision application indicates that all property contained in the 40 lots, except for the immediate homesites, would remain enrolled in the tax abatement program.

In contrast, if the property were acquired for the Forest Preserve, the state would pay full property taxes on the land. Were the state to pay the same property taxes as it pays per acre on nearby Lake Lila, then the town would gain more in property taxes from the state than it would if the Whitneys sold the lots and \$500,000 homes were built on each one.

Last fall after hunting season ended, Whitney Industries canceled all of the hunting leases on the property, so for the first time in many years there is no way for hunters to access the Whitney property to pursue their sport. Both hunting and fishing are

allowed on the Forest Preserve.

The Adirondack Council and other environmental organizations have alerted our members to the consequences of this break-up of one of the most remote and pristine areas of the Adirondacks — and of the need for the state to acquire this property. Newspapers across New York State have written about the subdivision and several have carried editorials calling upon the Governor to acquire the property for the Forest Preserve.

Council members have sent scores of letters to the Governor, urging him to act expeditiously to acquire as much of the property as possible for addition to the Forest Preserve. At press time, no announcement had been made regarding an acquisition deal between the State of New York and the Whitneys. If an agreement is not reached and the Whitneys proceed with their subdivision plan, the Council will oppose the subdivision proposal before the Adirondack Park Agency.

We will marshal all of our resources and those of other interested groups to make the case that this subdivision represents a serious threat to the future of the Adirondack Park.

# It's Time to Retire Acid Rain ... Forever

Yes, I would like to eliminate tons of acid-rain-causing air pollution. Here's \$50 for each ton of pollution I would like the Adirondack Council to retire in my name, or in the name of a friend or loved one.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name to appear on certificate (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

I am already a member of the Adirondack Council,

I wish to become a member. (at no additional cost)

Number of tons I wish to retire: \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

VISA/MC #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Please make checks payable to The Adirondack Council)**

Your contribution is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

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*"I am honored that the Adirondack Council asked me to retire the first ton of pollution and am confident other New Yorkers will join in this worthwhile effort."*

— Gov. George E. Pataki

The Adirondack Council  
P.O. Box D-2, Church St.  
Elizabethtown, NY 12932

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